

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Announcements

First, the Brethren Publication Board is now revising its mailing list, and notices have been sent to all whose subscriptions expired with the year 1899 or before that time, and who have not yet renewed. In a few cases errors have been detected and the proper credit has not been given. We thank our friends for calling attention to these errors, so as to give us an opportunity to make the necessary corrections. It is a source of pleasure to us to know that these errors are very few.

Second, if you have not yet renewed your paper, please do so at once. It is very important that you should attend to this matter immediately. If you do not have the money at hand, kindly write us and inform us whether you desire the paper continued or not. This is very important, please do not overlook the matter.

## Use A Little Oil

The use of oil in some form antedates all our modern machinery for the successful operation of which it is now absolutely essential. Formerly it had a sacred use, being employed in setting aside those whom God called to some special office or for some special service in his kingdom. Its use was a sign of Divine grace and carried with it a prophetic intimation. It was also used because of its healing virtues, and hence the Apostle James directs its use in cases of sickness, being the outward sign of the inward healing which must be in the name of the Lord.

Oil has been used very successfully in pacifying the raging billows in the vicinity of vessels. Bags filled with oil are hung from the ship, and the calming effect on the waves is marvelous. Recently another use of oil has been discovered. It is now being used in quieting the dust along the railroad tracks, and the result is very gratifying, especially to the traveling public. By means of a specially designed sprinkler, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has oiled miles of its tracks, and, where formerly a passing train raised a thick cloud of dust, the experiment has entirely done away with, what to the traveler at least, is a great nuisance. The vast

machinery of this world could not be operated without the use of oil. It reduces friction to the minimum, hence lessens the power required to run machinery and causes it to run more smoothly.

This pacifying, soothing and quieting effect of oil has its lessons for us, when, figuratively applied to the varied experiences of human life. Individual, home, church, social and national life, makes up the vast machinery of human existence. The free and judicious use of the oil of kindness, of love, of forgiveness and of forbearance, would greatly lessen friction and have a very soothing effect on the machinery of human life. Home life is often disturbed and rendered unhappy by the thick clouds of dust, raised by current conflicts, by unkind words and by thoughtlessness on the part of some member of the family. The oil of mutual kindness and love is a great preventative of such conditions of life, and where they do exist, it has a very pacifying and sweetening influence. A frequent application of the oil of God's love, the oil of gospel grace, the oil of charity, would have a very sweet and calming effect on our national life, and indeed would heal all the wounds and ills of our social life. There is too much friction in the social world, caused by the wrong use of God-given gifts, a misuse of God's machinery. Our social life needs an application of this oil to make it run smoothly. The clanging, clashing, bickerings, and meaningless discussions in our national Congress and in our state legislatures, would find an application of the oil of common sense very helpful indeed, and greatly aid our legislators in doing the will of the people. In every department of human life, a free use of oil would make the machinery of the social world run with far less friction. Then too, in the church of God there is often too much friction. How often our hearts are made to bleed because of the sad state of affairs that exist among those who claim to be the children of God. The one thing needed here is a copious application of the oil of the Holy Spirit, to calm the troubled waters, to cheer weary souls and to heal heartaches and wounds. A judicious application of the oil of redeeming grace would completely remove the friction that exists between members of the same church, and between those of different denominations.